

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An output system having a data processing device and an output device for outputting data in a specific format, which is sent from the data processing device, driver software for controlling the output device being included in the data processing device, and comprising:

a first controller for receiving a print request and determining whether the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device via ~~a printer~~ the driver software or to be directly sent to the output device so as to bypass the ~~printer driver software~~; and

a second controller responsive to said first controller for calling an illegal printing preventing function incorporated into the ~~printer driver software~~ if said print request instructs data to be sent to the output device via the ~~printer driver software~~, and for prohibiting said data from being sent to the output device if said print request instructs data to be sent to the output device so as to bypass the ~~printer driver software~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) An output system having a data processing device and an output device for outputting data in a specific format, which is sent from the data processing device, ~~driver software for controlling the output device being included in the data processing device~~, and comprising:

a prohibiting controller for prohibiting data ~~bypassing said driver software~~ from sources other than an application program running on the data processing device to be output to the output device, but allowing data ~~passing the driver software from the application program~~ to be output to the output device, by setting a value which is different from an ordinary value for outputting data to the

output device, in response to a data output request to the output device from the ~~data processing device~~ application program.

4. (Currently Amended) An output system as described in claim 3, wherein said ~~setting is a value stored to~~ prohibiting controller sets said different value in a specific register.

5. (Currently Amended) An output method used in an output system having a data processing device and an output device for outputting data in a specific format, which is sent from the data processing device, comprising:

~~determining whether a print request instructs data to be sent to the output device from the data processing device via printer driver software incorporated in the data processing device or to be directly sent to the output device so as to bypass the printer driver software~~ incorporated in the data processing device; and

~~prohibiting data from being sent to the output device if said print request instructs data to be sent to the output device so as to bypass the printer driver software.~~

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium for storing a program run on an output system having a data processing device and an output device for outputting in a specific format data sent from the data processing device, said program comprising steps of:

~~determining whether a print request instructs data to be sent to the output device from the data processing device via printer driver software incorporated in the data processing device or to be directly sent to the output device so as to bypass the printer driver software~~ incorporated in the data processing device; and

prohibiting data from being sent to the output device if said print request instructs data to be sent to the output device so as to bypass the ~~printer~~ driver software.

8. (Cancelled)

9-11. (Canceled)

12. (New) An output method used in an output system having a data processing device and an output device for outputting data in a specific format, which is sent from the data processing device, comprising:

receiving a data output request to the output device from an application program running on the data processing device; and

setting a value which is different from an ordinary value for outputting data to the output device in response to the data output request to the output device from the application program, so as to prohibit data from sources other than the application program to be output to the output device, but allow data from the application program to be output to the output device.

13. (New) a computer-readable storage medium for storing a program run on a data processing device for sending data to an output device to be output in a specific format, said program comprising steps of:

receiving a data output request to the output device from an application program running on the data processing device; and

setting a value which is different from an ordinary value for outputting data to the output device in response to the data output request to the output device from the application program, so as to prohibit data from sources other than the application program to be output to the output device, but allow data from the application program to be output to the output device.

14. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein said determining step distinguishes between data that is sent to the output device via said driver software

and data that bypasses said driver software, and wherein said prohibiting step is only performed with respect to data that bypasses the driver software.

15. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein said determining step distinguishes between data that is sent to the output device via said driver software and data that bypasses said driver software, and wherein said prohibiting step is only performed with respect to data that bypasses the driver software.